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HIJACK - HADDAD

BEIRUT, NOV 2, REUTER - A HARDLINE PALESTINIAN COMMANDO GROUP SAID TODAY THAT IT EXPELLED A MAN REPORTED TO HAVE MASTERMINDED LAST MONTH'S HIJACKING OF A WEST GERMAN AIRLINER MORE THAN 20 MONTHS AGO.

DISCLAIMING ONCE AGAIN ANY PART IN THE HIJACKING OF THE LUFTHANSA BOEING 737 TO SOMALIA, THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP) SAID THAT WADI HADDAD WAS EXPELLED IN FEBRUARY, 1976, ALONG WITH OTHERS OPPOSED TO THE FRONT'S 1972 DECISION TO ABANDON THE USE OF HIJACKINGS.

MR. HADDAD USED TO HEAD THE PFLP'S "FOREIGN OPERATIONS" SECTION, WHICH STAGED A SERIES OF SPECTACULAR HIJACKINGS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN THE LATE 1960S AND EARLY 1970S.

RELIABLE SOURCES SAY HE NOW IS IN CHARGE OF A COMMANDO SPLINTER GROUP WHICH MOUNTED THE HIJACKING OF THE LUFTHANSA AIRLINER FROM THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TO THE SOMALI CAPITAL OF MOGADISHU.

THE HIJACKERS SOUGHT THE RELEASE OF URBAN GUERRILLAS FROM PRISONS IN WEST GERMANY AND TURKEY, BUT THE OPERATION ENDED WITH A WEST GERMAN COMMANDO ATTACK WHICH RESCUED THE HOSTAGES AND KILLED THREE OF THE FOUR HIJACKERS.

REUTER 1914

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 5-9-93
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PM-PALESTINIANS 11-3

BY NED TENKO

BEIRUT, LEBANON (UPI) -- ONE THE MOST RADICAL PALESTINIAN GROUPS SAYS IT HAS DISMISSED THE REPUTED MASTERMIND OF MANY MIDDLE EASTERN HIJACKINGS BECAUSE HE REFUSES TO GIVE UP AIR PIRACY.

THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE ISSUED A STATEMENT LATE WEDNESDAY SAYING DR. WADIE HADDAD, 46, A BALDING PALESTINIAN PEDIATRICIAN, HAD BEEN DISMISSED FROM ITS RANKS.

THE STATEMENT SAID HADDAD WAS KICKED OUT QUIETLY IN FEBRUARY 1976, BUT THE FRONT HAD BEEN FORCED TO ANNOUNCE IT NOW BECAUSE OF HADAD'S REPUTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HIJACKING OF A LUFTHANSA JETLINER IN SOMALIA LAST MONTH.

THE FRONT, A RADICAL PALESTINIAN GROUP OPPOSED TO ANY PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, SAID IT EXPELLED THE HADDAD BECAUSE HE HAD REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH AN ORGANIZATION DECISION IN MARCH 1972 TO FOREGO HIJACKINGS AS A MEANS OF PRESSING THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AGAINST ISRAEL.

"WE HAVE STATED TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT WE HAVE STOPPED HIJACK OPERATIONS," THE FRONT'S STATEMENT SAID. "WE HAVE ALSO DENIED INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECENT HIJACK OF THE LUFTHANSA JETLINER."

THE STATEMENT SAID AFTER THAT HIJACKING, "WE FIND IT ESSENTIAL TO STRESS ONE MORE TIME THAT WE ARE STILL ABIDING BY OUR EARLIER DECISION" TO ABANDON AIR PIRACY.

"THERE ARE SOME COMRADES WHO ARE AGAINST THE FRONT'S DECISION. AMONG THEM IS DR. HADDAD," THE FRONT'S STATEMENT SAID.

HADDAD CO-FOUNDED THE FRONT WITH DR. GEORGE HABASH, WHOM HE MET AS A STUDENT AT BEIRUT'S AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. AS HEAD OF THE FRONT'S "FOREIGN OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT," HADDAD WAS SAID TO HAVE MASTERMINED THE INITIAL WAVE OF PALESTINIAN HIJACKINGS BETWEEN 1968 AND 1972.

UPI 11-03 06:52 AES